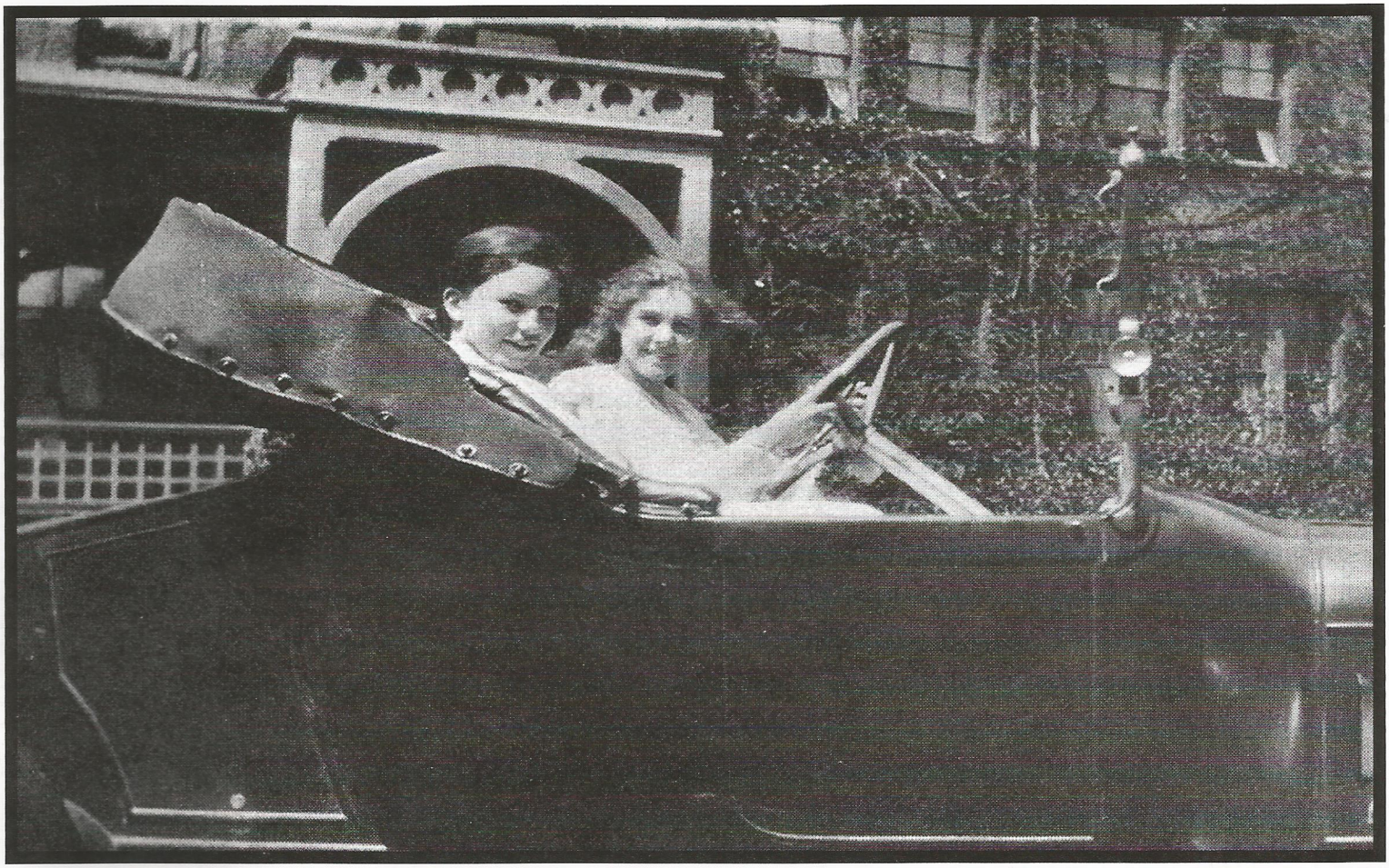
THE FREEHOLDER

SUMMER 2009 THE OYSTER BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDED 1960



THE HISTORY MAGAZINE OF THE TOWN OF OYSTER BAY

Editorial

This issue marks the beginning of another volume of *The Freeholder*. And appropriately, we have a mix of "old" and "new." Old, as in frequent, past contributors to these pages, and new as in the first of what I hope will be many.

Judith Spinzia continues her excellent series on notable Long Island women with a look at Clare Boothe Luce, while Bob Harrison provides another installment of his series on our Island's "Dead Poets."

We welcome a new contributor, Michael Goudket, who has penned a most informative piece on Samuel Townsend's mercantile activities in Oyster Bay.

All in all I do think that this issue was worth the wait! Our next issue will focus on the stories of our local World War II veterans, as featured in the *Oyster Bay Goes To War* exhibit.

THE FREEHOLDER
of the
Oyster Bay Historical Society
Vol. 14 No. 1 Summer 2009

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The Freeholder of the Oyster Bay Historical Society is published quarterly with the generous assistance of private individuals. The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Oyster Bay Historical Society, but of the individual authors.

Purpose: The Oyster Bay Historical Society was founded in 1960 with the express purpose of preserving the history of the Town of Oyster Bay. The Society maintains a museum and research library in the Town-owned c. 1720 Earle-Wightman House, 20 Summit Street, Oyster Bay
Call (516) 922-5032 for more information.

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ABOUT OUR FRONT COVER

Clare Boothe (at wheel) with Elizabeth "Buffy" Cobb in front of St. Mary's Cathedral School, Garden City, NY, c. 1916. Frequent contributor Judith Ader Spinzia continues her series on notable Women of Long Island with this look at Clare Boothe Luce which cuts through some of the obfuscations which Clare herself cultivated. See p. 3. Photo provided by the author.

THE POST RIDER

To the Editor:

A Historical Society of the Massapequas member recently came into possession of a *Bible* dating to 1821. Inside the *Bible* is a section with spaces for family birth, marriage and death records. Among the entries is Thomas Carman, a name familiar to South Oyster Bay residents because of Carman's Mill Road, at the east end of the Massapequas. The road goes past Berner Junior High School and was the site of Carman's Mill until the early 1900s. The Carman family owned that area as well as several other plots of land in the Massapequas, which are documented through maps in the Delancey Floyd-Jones Free Library.

The current owner of the *Bible* would like to know if Uncle Peleg or somebody in the Historical Society can provide guidance to link the recorded names to other Carman family members; in other words, to perform forward-looking (from the 1820s), instead of backward-looking, genealogical research. Genealogists tell researchers to start with what they know, which is usually current information (parents, grandparents, etc.) and work backwards in time. In this case the *Bible* records information about people who lived close to 200 years ago. How can their histories be brought forward?

The goal is to find the rightful owners and ask if they want the *Bible* returned. It's possible they may have given it away without realizing their family's history was contained therein.

George Kirchmann

Thank you for sending the information on the Carman family Bible along to us, George. Can any of our readers assist us in finding the rightful owners of this unique piece of family history?

WOMEN OF LONG ISLAND: CLARE BOOTHE LUCE (1903 – 1987), THE LONG ISLAND CONNECTION

by Judith Ader Spinzia

Clare Boothe Luce is a name well-known to most, but even those who knew the Luces well may have known little of Clare Boothe or Clare Boothe Brokaw. A playwright, author, politician, journalist, and diplomat, she was renowned for her beauty and elegance, her wit, and her native intelligence. While most of us live a life, she lived many lives under many hats and a portion of the fabulous journey through life taken by that accomplished woman was spent on Long Island. A search for the facts about her early years and the years spent on Long Island are thwarted by a rather concerted effort at revision along the way by Clare herself, and by the savage attacks of her critics who resorted to outright lies and slander. For the hardcore critics, who could hardly deny her beauty, her intelligence becomes guile and her social ambitions translate to the ambitions of a gold digger, her talents are denied and her accomplishments are frequently evaluated in terms of the men in her life. Instead of letting these enemies defeat her, Clare took what she had, what she had been taught by her mother, and utilized the sexist element to access the rarified air of business and politics. Once there, she applied herself to the task at hand and showed her critics that there were definitely brains beneath the facade.

Born Ann Clare Boothe in New York City to Anna Clara Snyder, a chorus girl and actress, and William Franklin Boothe, a piano salesman and rather unsuccessful violinist, Clare and her older brother David's early years were spent traveling with their show business parents.[1] As a result, both had little formal elementary education except during the period when they attended the Ward Belmont School in Nashville, Tennessee, and when they briefly lived in Chicago, where they were enrolled at the Chicago Latin School while William Boothe, then using the alias of John J. Murphy or Murfé, was playing with the Chicago Grand Opera Orchestra.[2]

Ann finally left William when Clare was nine years old.[3] The responsibility to support and educate David and Clare was now the exclusive responsibility of the socially ambitious Ann, who seemed to care little for David or his prospects. She poured her efforts into marrying and finding a comfortable economic and social position for herself, through which she could then "launch" Clare.[4] Positioning Clare for that launch was to be her next big project. Using money she had inherited from her father John Schneider (Snyder), Wall Street returns on the money William had sent as support, albeit irregularly, and her earnings as a saleslady in a jewelry store, Ann entered David in military school in Wisconsin and took Clare on a tour of Europe to expose her to culture and the Continent.[5] No matter their financial situation, no matter where they slept and ate, no matter that they traveled second class, the masks of society were firmly in place and Ann was leading Clare ever "upward."[6] It was on this trip that Ann met Joseph Jacobs, whose wealth derived from the

Clare (left), Dr. Albert Austin, and Ann Snyder[Boothe] Austin either at their departure for Europe, November 1920, or upon Clare and Ann's return in 1921.

growing success of Firestone Tire and Rubber Company. According to Clare, Jacobs may well have proposed to Ann on the voyage home. He was from that day on a part of Ann's life and provided for her and the children.[7]

Although educating Clare does not seem to have been her real goal, Ann managed to enroll Clare in St. Mary's Cathedral School for Girls in Garden City. The fact that Clare's grandfather Boothe was a clergyman allowed Clare to attend the diocesan school utilizing the school's tuition courtesy policy.[8] As a scholarship student at St. Mary's, Clare was at a disadvantage socially but she was a good student who escaped into writing and books, reading everything in sight, especially philosophy, poetry, and the classics. She consumed all that she encountered with quiet enthusiasm, filing it away for future use.

Biographies frequently state that Clare attended St. Mary's Cathedral School and subsequently attended and was graduated from Castle School, also referenced as Miss Mason's School, in Tarrytown, New York, at the age of sixteen.[9] While Clare did attend St. Mary's from 1916 to 1918 and did transfer to the Tarrytown school, leaving the school at the top of her class in June 1919, she did not technically "graduate" from high school and joked about the eight or nine honorary college degrees conferred upon her in light of the three years of high school she had completed.[10]

Ann pursued marriage for herself once Clare had completed an education adequate for social acceptance. Although she continued to have a close relationship with Jacobs, a relationship which did not end until her death, she turned down his proposal of marriage, stating that his religion would be an impediment to her plans for Clare.[11] In the fall of 1919, Ann underwent an emergency appendectomy and fell in love with her doctor, the head of internal medicine and chief of staff of Greenwich Hospital in Connecticut. Ann married Dr. Albert E. Austin and moved, with her children, to Old Greenwich, Connecticut.[12] She returned to her agenda and the launch of Clare was again underway.

Dr. and Mrs. Austin and Clare set off on a tour of Europe in November 1920, this time in style. While sailing home on the *Olympia*, Ann, ever the opportunist, positioned deck chairs next to gossip columnist and author Elsa Maxwell and socialite suffragist Alva Smith [Vanderbilt] Belmont. Charmed by Clare and having lost her young assistant Inez Mulholland, the dynamic suffrage leader recruited Clare into the women's rights movement. Clare was invited to the Belmont estate Beacon Towers in Sands Point, Long Island, and, later, to the Women's Party Headquarters in Washington to meet Alice Paul.[13] As Alva's assistant and personal secretary, she accompanied Mrs. Belmont to Seneca Falls, New York, to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Women's Rights Conference. Resplendent in helmet and goggles, Clare dropped leaflets from a World War I Jenny while flying over nearby Schenectady to advertise the anniversary celebration. She contributed youth and vitality and did attract attention to the cause, as Alva Belmont had calculated.[14]

Clare had also met the James Stewart Cushmans on board the *Olympia*. In June of 1922, Cushman, a socially-prominent philanthropist, invited Clare to hear the dynamic young clergyman Harry Emerson Fosdick preach at the Riverside Church in Manhattan. Seated beside her was George Tuttle Brokaw. At the conclusion of the service, George drove Clare to the station to catch the train back up to Greenwich and drove to Greenwich the next week to visit her and meet Dr. and Mrs. Austin.[15] In 1923 Clare married George, twenty-three years her senior, he forty-three and she twenty. Clare had not chosen to marry Brokaw; her mother brokered the society marriage. George was the son of Isaac Vail Brokaw, who with his brother William Vail Brokaw had founded the Brokaw Brothers Clothing Company. Its profits, beginning as a supplier of uniforms for the Union Army during the Civil War, created a fortune that resulted in the establishment of several estates on Long Island's North Shore.[16] George, an attorney, playboy, and troubled alcoholic, and Clare, a naïve child now "society matron," moved into the large c.1910 Neo-Georgian house on Middle Neck Road in Sands Point formerly known as "The Lindens," a house that had been designed by Augustus N. Allen for Max C. Fleischmann, an heir to the Fleischmann yeast fortune. Clare may not have found happiness here,

but her mother Ann certainly felt that Clare had been successfully launched into society and she could cross another thing off her list. George sold the Sands Point house in 1926 for a reported $300,000 and the Brokaws built "Sunnybrook" on Wolver Hollow Road and Ripley Lane in Upper Brookville.[17]

Clare suffered several miscarriages, credited by some, including George's second wife Frances, to George's violent behavior when inebriated.[18] Always contrite after these episodes, George pleaded with Clare to remain but finally, after six years of marriage, Clare moved out and went to live at the Stanhope Hotel in Manhattan with their daughter Ann, then four years old. This temporary and unsatisfactory arrangement ended with a Reno divorce in 1929. Clare had respected the unreasonable request made by George's mother that she not leave George until the senior Mrs. Brokaw had died.[19]

On a $25,000 after-taxes annual income, a modest alimony considering George's worth was estimated at about $12 million, Clare Boothe Brokaw rented a penthouse apartment at 444 East 52nd Street in Manhattan and began life again.[20]

Clare's first job was as a caption writer for Condé Nast's *Vogue* magazine, for which she was not paid. A few weeks after she started the job, Nast viewed her work and put her on the payroll at $35-a-week.[21] A career was born; she moved from *Vogue* to *Vanity Fair* and in 1933 she became managing editor of *Vanity Fair.*

In 1933, while still at *Vanity Fair*, Clare had written the book *Stuffed Shirts*. Writing ideas continued to percolate in her head, precipitating Clare's decision to write full time. She resigned from the magazine in 1934 and threw herself into the life of a playwright, writing *Abide With Me* in 1935, generally considered to be a thinly-disguised story of her marriage to Brokaw; the highly successful and somewhat biographical *The Women* in 1936; and *Kiss the Boys Goodbye*, which was named one of the ten best plays of 1938.[22] *Margin of Error*, published in 1939, was followed in 1940 by *Europe in the Spring*. Additionally, she wrote the screenplay for *Come to the Stable* in 1949, which was nominated for an Academy Award, and in 1951 she wrote the stage play *Child of the Morning*. In 1952 *Saints for Now* was published for which she is listed as editor, not author.

George Tuttle and Clare Boothe Brokaw during happier days

As she changed hats from her role as magazine editor to author, Clare and Bernard Baruch became close and devoted friends or, as some might say, the next man entered her life. He and Clare were both intimately involved in FDR's "New Deal" at the highest level.

Baruch, a successful speculator and financier, had created a persona of statesman and advisor in much the way Clare invented and reinvented herself. Sitting on a park bench in Lafayette Park across from the White House, offering intellectual advice to presidents, Baruch became a character listened to by most, understood by some, and acknowledged positively by both the political world and

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DOING BUSINESS IN SAMUEL TOWNSEND'S COLONIAL STORE

by Michael Goudket

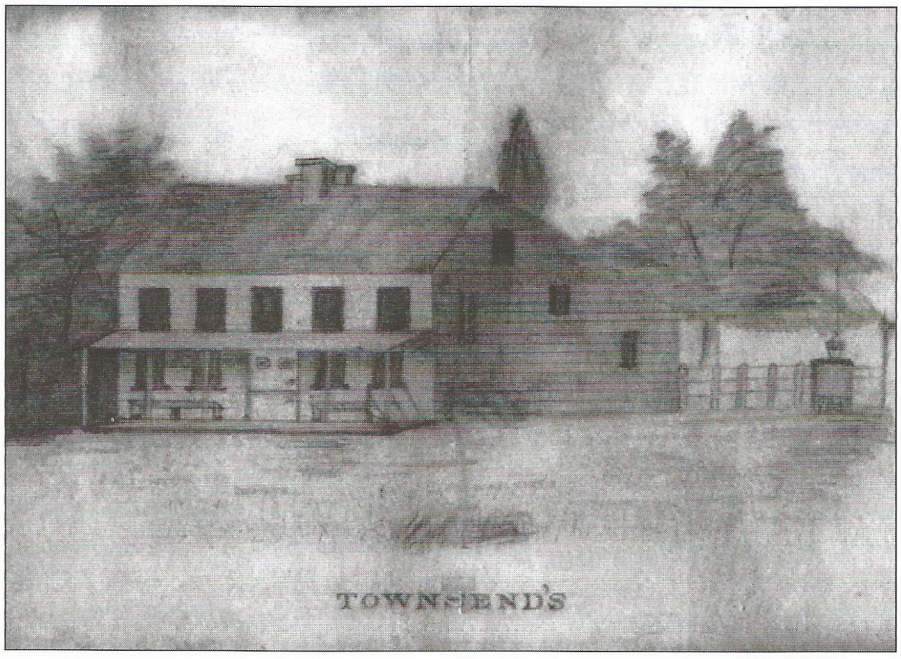
If the residents of Oyster Bay were divided by class in colonial days, Samuel Townsend would have been of "the better sort" because he made a living as a merchant. He operated his store out of what is now the Raynham Hall Museum after purchasing the property in 1738. Incredibly, some of the books from his business were passed down through the family, instead of being discarded, and remain in the museum's collection. These provide a rare look into the lives of ordinary colonial people through the record of their purchases and how they were able to settle their debts.

Townsend moved his young family and retail trade there from Jericho. He set about expanding the new house, which is now the white painted, salt box, front section of the 20 West Main Street museum building. In many ways his retail trade was very much like today's shopping at a department store. As we picture it, the museum's front hall and one of the rooms would be the shop and display space. Outbuildings, long gone, kept things in bulk storage, but the expensive items were kept in the house. A great range of imported merchandise was available for purchase.

There is a romantic notion that people in colonial times were self-sufficient. We envision hearty pioneers raising all their own food, spinning and weaving all the cloth to make their clothes, dipping wicks in fragrant beeswax to make candles, and heroically fighting off savages as the need arose. Though there is some truth to this myth, the reality is that people wanted and needed imported goods from England for comfort and survival. The more affluent a person was, the more they would resemble English people instead of pioneers. This is what kept import/export merchants like Samuel Townsend in business.

To truly understand early America, we must understand how the social structure of their world worked. Colonial society in Oyster Bay, by the 1740s, was divided into the common, middling, and better classes. It was easy to tell a person's social position just by the way they dressed. Common farmers and fishermen and their families, who lived in little one or two room cottages, would be wearing homespun and leather clothing. They would look worn and lean, and be tanned from being outdoors much of the time. Their days were spent in toil from before dawn until after dark, trying to keep their farm producing and food on their table.

The middling sort had a trade. They could be blacksmiths, shipwrights, coopers, sail makers, or any of the necessary trades that kept society together. Those who made their living "by the sweat of their brow" in manufacturing called themselves mechanics. For example, Paul Revere, master silversmith of Boston, was proud to call himself a mechanic. Mechanics worked at both their trade and their small farms and generally had a better life. Their clothes were made of both homespun and imported cloth. Their buttons were pewter instead of wood or bone. They looked cleaner than the farmers.



A sketch of Raynham Hall as it appeared shortly after the Revolution.

The wealthy of society are known as "the better sort." They made their living by the use of capital and intellect. This would include Samuel Townsend. A literate man who came from a wealthy family of English extraction, Samuel made a good life for his own

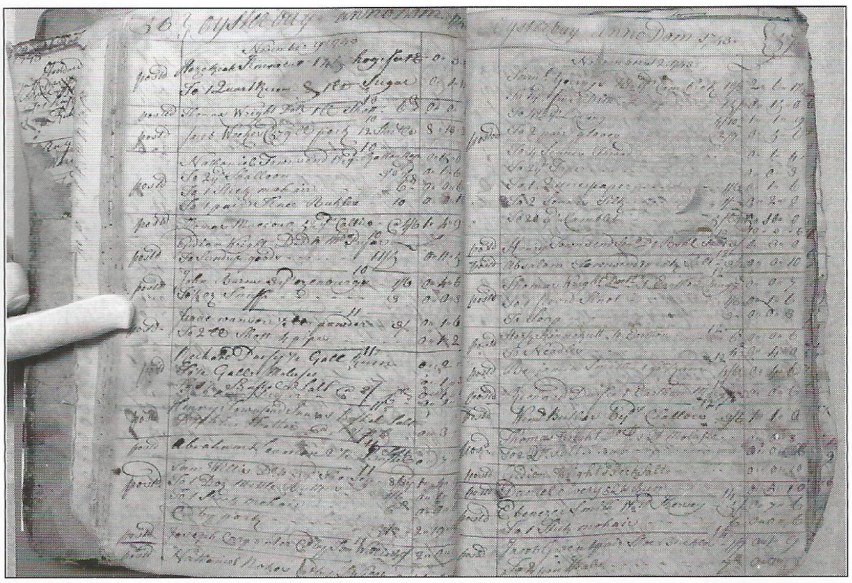
family in the import/export business. The Townsends could dress in nice cotton and imported wool, have buttons and buckles made of silver, and they were, most likely, reasonably clean. Ladies might be fashionably plump and pale skinned. The family owned books, could read and write with a nice hand, and would have the time to provide some leadership to the town. All social classes were customers in the Townsend store. There was social pressure to dress and consume goods equal to your station in society, just as there is today.

The two daybooks under discussion here are from 1743 and 1761, as they are from the Colonial Period. With careful study, these ledgers have much to reveal. They were known as "day books" because they record the day-to-day transactions that occurred in the store by the year, month and day. Such documents are actually very rare from this time period. After all, when a business ceases, most families eventually throw away the books. Each page of these ledgers is a treasure. It lists the transaction in this way: the customer's name, what was bought or how were things paid for, what the date was that the transaction was done. Day books worked like credit cards: people would buy first and pay when their harvest or goods became available. It is remarkable that we can discover after 200 years some of the day-to-day business of ordinary colonials in Oyster Bay.

By studying the day books we come up with a very different and much more realistic view of colonial life in pre-Revolutionary Oyster Bay. For one thing, there was money around with which to buy some of the nicer things that made life worthwhile. England pumped money into the American colonies because they were contesting with the French in North America during what we now call the French and Indian Wars. Actually, the French and Indian Wars were a collection of little wars that brought British troops with money in their pockets to the Colonies. Farmers and fishermen with a surplus could sell it for a good price as the army needed to be fed. There was a big market for lumber for building houses and ships. Things needed repair, so the mechanics (like blacksmiths) kept busy and made money. It was a boom time in the English colonies. The merchants were doing a good business importing from the Mother Country and sending goods or cash back in trade. Tariffs were low, pirates few, and the profits from shipping good. American people were still comfortable thinking of themselves as English in the 1740s, and they wanted the same goods as their relatives back home.

Rum was a very popular item throughout the colonies. It served to warm a person in the cold, mitigate pain when medicines were few, make water safe to drink by adding a few drops, and even act as a preservative for things like fruit. In Oyster Bay, people bought rum in bulk; by the cask if they could. The cask would be returned for credit and re-filled from even larger barrels. Without heavy duties, rum was accessible to nearly all consumers. We know this because of the number of sales of rum on so many pages of the Townsend day books. Even with the colonial appetite for alcohol, a gallon of rum should have lasted a while.

The next most popular items sold were tools, utensils and cloth



These are pages from the daybook of Samuel Townsend from November of 1743. The first column, "Posted," means that the transaction was posted to the account of the individual, accumulating as debt, like a credit card. The word "To" signifies that goods were delivered to that person. "From" would mean that goods were had from that person in payment of their debt.

yard goods. The colonies were discouraged from making their own household products. Blacksmithing in America often meant repairs or making small hardware items from scrap iron. Fine goods were more likely English in origin. While an imported knife might come with a fitted handle, farm implements would arrive with just the blade and the farmer would create his own custom-fitted wood handle for a scythe, hoe or shovel. Osnaburg, buckram, and calico cloth are mentioned as being sold in the store. These imported fabrics were expensive. Domestic linen and wool were cheaper and ordinary clothing would be made of these. This linen and wool were not sold in the store, but made in the colony by families for themselves or got by barter from skilled neighbors. Clothes were sewn or knitted by the female household members or, if the house were wealthy, by a tradesperson. Simple sewing did little credit to a woman, but fancy sewing and embroidery could be a woman's trade and brought extra income to a family. Things English, made by specialty crafters, were prized as being superior to others. Buying them in preference to the work of the French, Dutch, or Spanish was both patriotic and fashionable.

This Townsend ledger book from 1744 – 45 is about 8 x 13" and made of blank rag paper. It's bound in leather and meant to last. Individual transactions are separated by a line and generally are marked in script either "to" (sold to) or "of" (had from in payment). Payment was sometimes done in cash and marked "paid." The handwriting of the 1744 book is neater and easier to read than the 1761 book. Most often purchases are done on credit, posted to another book listing the total debts of the family, and paid back at harvest when crops or commodities come in. Credits are made for things like hogs and wooden shingles. The initials "pd" in the left column of the ledger means "posted" to another page where the debts of a customer accumulated.

Purchases

Though women may have decided upon the exact nature of the purchase, most of the transactions were done by men. Some names include titles. Many of the family names will be familiar as street names on local roads. John Robbins (Robbins Lane), Rebecca Powell (Powell Avenue), and Write Coles (Coles Street), are some examples. We know that these following transactions took place in 1744. The variety of goods is interesting in that it gives insight into what people were using in their daily lives that they could not make for themselves. Prices are in shillings and pence. Spellings are from the original manuscript. The date is followed by the name, the item, and the cost in shillings, a slash, and pence.

6/18	Absalom Wooden	1/2 gallon of rum	4/6	
	Samuel Bayley	2 lb. sugar	4/6	
6/21	Stephen Johnson	2 1/2 gal. molasses	2/6	
6/24	John Townsend bought	1/2 lb. nails	10/-	
	David Wright	1/2 yd. calico	4/8	
	Ezekiel Shagbolt	4 sheats paper		
6/29	Write Coles	1/4 lb. tea	-/4	
6/30	Adam Smith	3 dz. pipes	1/2	
7/1	Tobias Lupland	knife	8/-	
7/8	Rebecca Powell	4 yds. callico.	16/-	paid in cash
8/2	Richard Willits	1 sythe	6/-	
		1 stick sealing wax	-/9	
8/8	Thomas Tuner	1 felt hat	3/-	
8/19	Thomas Wright	1 lb powder	3/-	
		2 lb schott	-/6	
8/20	Joseph Carpenter	1 pr. stockings	7/-	
	Thomas Wright Hatt	1 lg. iron skillet	3/-	
8/30	Joseph Ludlam	1 shovel	2/6	

The items described include clay smoking pipes, shot for a musket or fowling piece, calico cloth, fine stockings and writing paper.

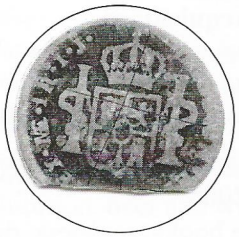
Payment and value

There is no real way to make an equivalent to 1744 purchases in today's dollars. Some things of today, like a small knife, were then a major purchase. Other things, like oysters or cheese, were relatively cheap compared to modern prices for these same goods. One half yard of calico, which in the 18th century was defined as unprinted fine cotton cloth, cost the huge sum of 4/8 (four shillings, eight pence). The same today, similar cotton that has been machine mass produced, would cost, perhaps, a mere $4. Modern people are used to having machines do repetitive labor for very little cost, making modern manufactured goods cheap. The skilled labor used to make products in colonial times made simple household items like fine cloth, a knife or plain paper, expensive.

There is another way to look at the value of things in 1744. The coins that were used as payment were valued because of their content of metal. The English monetary system (up until recently) was 12 pence to the shilling, 20 shillings to the pound. A gold sovereign coin, worth one pound, during the reign of George III, contained 7.9981 grams of gold, or .257 troy ounces. At one point in the year 2009, gold was valued at $929 for one troy ounce. So, a sovereign would be worth in 2009 dollars about $238.75. A 1744 shilling would be worth about $11.94 in 2009. So a knife costing Tobias Lupland 8 shillings would be worth $95.52. That was a valuable knife and sure to be a prized possession.

Parliament had decreed that silver and gold English coinage should remain in the motherland. Colonists were required to manage with other currencies. These would be cut into pieces to match the precious metal weight of English coinage. Though the money in the day books would be reckoned in English denominations, the actual exchange could involve coins from many nations. Coin and pieces of coins were carefully weighed to make sure that they were of true value in precious metal. Often, large coins were divided by cutting in order to make small change. Spanish 8 real coins were often cut like a pizza to make "pieces of eight." Raynham Hall Museum displays coin weights which were used to determine the value of foreign coins compared to English money as well as scales to illustrate how coins were examined during a business deal.

Most colonists seldom had cash money in the first place, but lived by credit and paid by barter. This gave Samuel Townsend a double chance to make money. You see,



This Spanish 1 Real coin has had the date cut off. It now weighs exactly 1 pennyweight of silver. It also bears an "x" scratch, signifying that it has been tested for weight and purity. This is the kind of coin that would have circulated as cash in the American colonies.

he bargained for the final price he'd allow for a hog, shingles, tallow, butter, flax seed, or oxen that he took in payment of a debt. Then, if he were a sharp trader (and he was), he could make a second profit upon resale of the goods. With acute business sense, the Townsend family soon became wealthy and Samuel a formidable force in the community.

Here are some of the transactions recorded as payment of debts in the Townsend store. Note that all are either farm produce or labor provided to the store owner. The date is followed by the name of the customer, the amount and nature of the item, and the value in shillings and pence.

continued on p. 20

6/19	Garret Van Winkle	30 lb. tallow	15/-
6/26	Christopher Tobias	13 1/2 lb. butter	12/9
8/6	Samuel MacCoun	paid by carting board	5/6
	Peter Baker	paid by freight	13/-
8/8	Elizabeth Wooden	paid by 1 pr. stockings	5/6
8/12	John Hamer	paid by 1 pickle tub	3/-
10/26	Nathanial Townsend	7 bushels flax seed	1/1/0
	Hezekiah Cock	1 pr. oxen	19/-/-

FROM THE COLLECTIONS...

by Philip Blocklyn

New Acquisitions

Archives

09.277

Records of Christ Church, Oyster Bay, Long Island

1835-2005

Minute books, registers, diocesan school reports, treasurers' reports, parish aid booklets, certificates and documents, all relating to the functions of Christ Church, its Vestry, and congregation.

Donor: Christ Church

09.275

Papers from the Estate of James and Hannah (Tappen) Hicks of Jericho, Long Island

1856-1878

Correspondence, receipts, and promissory notes

Donor: Harry Macy

09.276

Underhill Scrapbook

Compiler: Emma S. Underhill of Flushing, New York

1960s

Mostly photographic materials related to the Underhills of Oyster Bay, Long Island. 34 leaves.

Donor: Deborah Smith

09.274

Papers of Hazel Scudder of Mill Neck, Long Island

1914, 1976

Includes Hazel Scudder's 1976 memoir of her grandfather George Hewlett Townsend and his farm in Glen Head (6 p typescript); Her 1914 school memory book from the Ingleside School of New Milford, Connecticut; and her scrapbook of images documenting European and American sculpture.

Donor: Michelina Walsh

Library

09.117

Monograph

Doty, Ethan Allen. *The Doty-Doten Family in America: Descendants of Edward Doty, an Emigrant by the Mayflower, 1620.* Brooklyn : 1897 [1984 reprint by Goodspeed's Book Shop of Boston, Massachusetts].

Donor: Anonymous

09.253

Monograph

Koob, Stephen P. *Conservation and Care of Glass Objects.* London : Archetype Publications, in association with the Corning Museum of Glass, 2006.

Donor: Martha Layton

09.265

Monograph

Storrs, Charles. *The Storrs Family: Genealogical and Other Memoranda.* New York : 1886.

Donor: Christ Church

09.278

Monograph

Zaitzevsky, Cynthia. *Long Island Landscapes and the Women Who Designed Them.* New York : SPLIA, in association W.W. Norton & Company, 2009.

Donor: W.W. Norton & Company

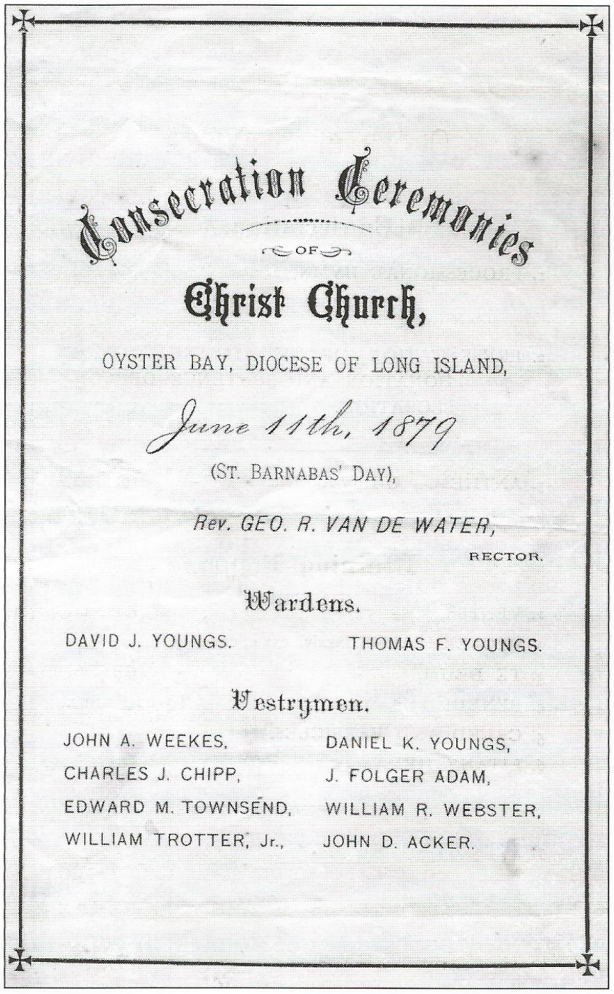
Loans

02262009

Glass Bottles

1. Citrate of Magnesia, Snouder, 1890-1900
2. Frank Goelz, Pharmacist, Locust Valley, 1890-1900
3. Archer & White, Cold Spring Harbor, ca. 1880
4. L.O. Wilson, Oyster Bay, after 1879
5. Matinecock Dairy, Locust Valley, 1920s

Lender: Robert Edelman



Consecration Ceremonies

OF

Christ Church,

OYSTER BAY, DIOCESE OF LONG ISLAND,

June 11th, 1879

(ST. BARNABAS' DAY),

Rev. GEO. R. VAN DE WATER,

RECTOR.

Wardens.

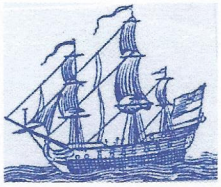
DAVID J. YOUNGS. THOMAS F. YOUNGS.

Vestrymen.

JOHN A. WEEKES, DANIEL K. YOUNGS,
CHARLES J. CHIPP, J. FOLGER ADAM,
EDWARD M. TOWNSEND, WILLIAM R. WEBSTER,
WILLIAM TROTTER, Jr., JOHN D. ACKER.

Program, Consecration Ceremonies of Christ Church, Oyster Bay, Diocese of Long Island, June 11th, 1879. The program notes that "strangers are invited to lunch in the Hall of the Rectory after the Services."

CURRENTS OF THE BAY



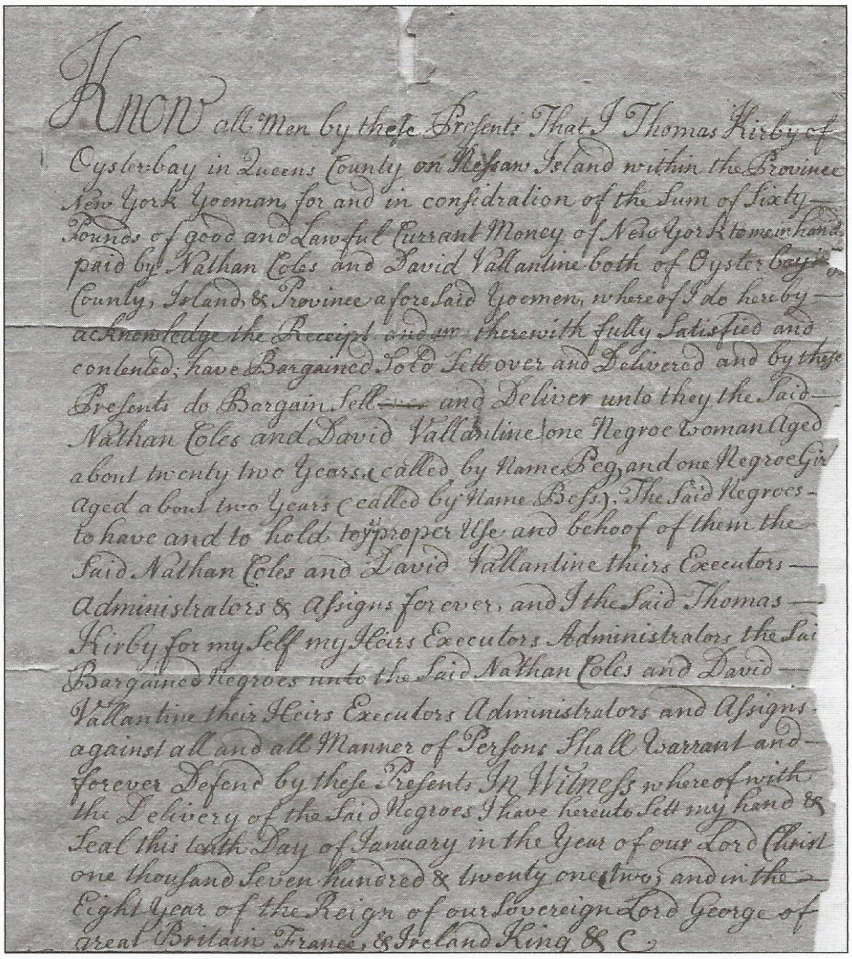
This section focuses on the doings of local historical societies, museums, and communities in the Town of Oyster Bay and its neighbors. Upcoming special events, exhibits, lectures and tours are featured, so send your submissions to the Editor if you would like to see your events covered in ***The Freeholder.***

SOCIETY OPENS "TRACING PEG: SLAVERY IN OYSTER BAY" EXHIBIT

Danielle S. Apfelbaum
Archives Month Curator

We leave traces of ourselves everywhere and in every format imaginable: in legal documents, family papers, and on audio/visual materials. What's more, we have whole-heartedly embraced the speed and connectivity of the Internet: we blog, we Tweet, we Facebook. We have the ability to reach thousands in a matter of seconds, to share our thoughts with the world as fast as we can think them up. Though we may not yet realize it, we are, in these acts, creating future archival records. In short, we are preserving our stories – in our words – for generations to come.

Given the relative simplicity with which we document ourselves, it is easy to overlook not only the importance of the archival record but also its complexity. The materials in "Tracing Peg" are rare; in a community where transactions between slaveholders and their human property were largely a private matter, original documentation remains scarce. Purchases, manumissions, and other slave-related legal documents that were never copied into the Town Records may have been lost or destroyed. Some, however, have been preserved. Such is the case with Peg. Though unrecorded in the Town Records, the 1721 sale of twenty-two year old Peg and two-year old Bess to Nathaniel Coles and David Vallantine from Thomas Kirby resides today in the Oyster Bay Historical Society's archives. It is, perhaps, the only trace of Peg and Bess that exists. As with the other archival records on display, it is important to note that these are one-sided documents. They were written from the point of view of the slaveholder; the enslaved African and African-American Islanders with whom they are concerned had no say in how they were represented therein. And yet, today, they may be reread as a powerful testament to the existence of these individuals and the invaluable contributions they made to the community of Oyster Bay.



Know all Men by these Presents That I Thomas Kirby of Oysterbay in Queens County on Nessaw Island within the Province New York Yeoman for and in consideration of the Sum of Sixty Pounds of good and Lawful Currant Money of New York to me in hand paid by Nathan Coles and David Vallantine both of Oysterbay County, Island & Province aforesaid Yeomen, whereof I do hereby acknowledge the Receipt and my self therewith fully Satisfied and contented; have Bargained Sold Sett over and Delivered and by these Presents do Bargain Sell and Deliver unto they the said Nathan Coles and David Vallantine one Negroe Woman Aged about twenty two Years called by Name Peg and one Negroe Girl Aged about two Years called by Name Bess. The said Negroes to have and to hold to their proper Use and behoof of them the said Nathan Coles and David Vallantine their Executors Administrators & Assigns forever, and I the said Thomas Kirby for my Self my Heirs Executors Administrators the said Bargained Negroes unto the said Nathan Coles and David Vallantine their Heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns against all and all Manner of Persons Shall Warrant and forever Defend by these Presents In Witness whereof with the Delivery of the said Negroes I have hereunto Sett my hand & Seal this tenth Day of January in the Year of our Lord Christ one thousand Seven hundred & twenty one two; and in the Eight Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George of great Britain France & Ireland King &c

Bill of Sale, 10 January 1722. Thomas Kirby to Nathan Coles and David Valentine, selling to them, for sixty pounds, two female slaves, Bess and Peg. 23 x 21 cm. Manuscript 168. Oyster Bay Historical Society Collections.

Tracing Peg: Slavery in Oyster Bay An American Archives Month Exhibit

11 October-23 December 2009
Reception at Oyster Bay Historical Society's Earle-Wightman

OBHS Director Tom Kuehhas is shown with World War II veterans who participated in the Society's "Oyster Bay Goes to War" Roundtable discussion held on Sunday, June 28. A packed house listened in rapt attention as each veteran told of their personal experiences during the war. Shown above, bottom row, from left, are Dom Villani,Sam Lucchesi, Paul Noonan, James Mooney, and Nick DeSantis. Top row, Town Councilman Chris Coschignano, Ray Boffardi, Gene Abbate, Tony Fabbricante, Donald Gromisch, John LoRusso, and Tom Kuehhas. The discussion was followed by the opening of the exhibition at the Earle-Wightman House.

House, Saturday 24 October, 3:00—5:00 p.m.For further information: 516-922-5032 danielle.apfelbaum@yahoo.com

THE ARCHIVIST'S ANGLE

by Philip Blocklyn

Danielle Apfelbaum (MLIS candidate, Palmer School at CW Post) is preparing an index of the Society's extensive obituary files. Stephanie Gellis (BA candidate, Hunter College) has transcribed over thirty hours of oral-history interviews conducted in conjunction with the exhibition *Oyster Bay Goes to War*, which was on view at the Society through September 2009. Ethan Abbe and Desiree Hendrickson have also contributed to this project. Lawrence and Michael Singer (BA candidates, Colgate College) worked on developing a reference guide to Society collections relating to Oyster Bay's colonial period.

OYSTER BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Categories of Membership

Individual	$ 35	Business	$ 75
Family	$ 45	Business Sponsor	$ 100
Contributing	$ 75	Business Friend	$ 300
Sponsor	$ 100	Business Patron	$ 500+
Sustaining	$ 250	Benefactor	$ 1000+
Patron	$ 500		

Member Benefits: Quarterly Magazine, Members' Party, Invitations to Exhibition Previews and Special Events, 10% Discount on Publications and Workshops. Call (516) 922-5032 for more information on joining the Society.

OB HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECEIVES CONSERVATION BOOKSHELF

Treasured objects and artifacts held by the Oyster Bay Historical Society will be preserved for future generations with help from the IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf, a core set of conservation books and online resources donated by the Institute of Museum and Library

Visit the Oyster Bay Historical Society's NEW website! www.oysterbayhistory.org

Services (IMLS). IMLS has now awarded almost 3,000 free sets of the IMLS Bookshelf, in cooperation with the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH).

"The Oyster Bay Historical Society, through its library and archival collections, works to acquire, preserve, and make accessible materials relating to the history of the Town of Oyster Bay," said Society Librarian and Archivist Philip Blocklyn. "The Conservation Bookshelf will prove a valuable asset for all our collections, especially visual resources like photography and postcards."

"When IMLS launched this initiative to improve the dire state of our nation's collections, we understood that the materials gathered for the Bookshelf would serve as important tools for museums, libraries, and archives nationwide," said Anne-Imelda Radice, Director of IMLS. "We were both pleased and encouraged by the overwhelming interest of institutions prepared to answer the call to action, and we know that with their dedication, artifacts from our shared history will be preserved for future generations."

The Oyster Bay Historical Society will receive this essential set of resources based on an application describing the needs and plans for the care of its collections. The IMLS Bookshelf focuses on collections typically found in art or history museums and in libraries' special collections, with an added selection of texts for zoos, aquaria, public gardens, and nature centers. It addresses such topics as the philosophy and ethics of collecting, collections management and planning, emergency preparedness, and culturally specific conservation issues.

The IMLS Bookshelf is a crucial component of *Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action*, a conservation initiative that the Institute launched in 2006. IMLS began the initiative in response to a 2005 study it released in partnership with Heritage Preservation, *A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America's Collections*. The multi-faceted, multi-year initiative shines a nationwide spotlight on the needs of America's collections, especially those held by smaller institutions, which often lack the human and financial resources necessary to adequately care for their collections.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.imls.gov.

SAGAMORE HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Senior ranger Scott Gurney has completed his eleven-week tour as Chief of Interpretation. He was replaced by Joshua Reyes, who will in turn be replaced by Noreen Hancock at the completion of his tour. C-Span's Civics Bus stopped at Sagamore Hill on September 4th as part of its tour visiting schools, libraries and other venues in the region. National Public Lands Day was observed on September 26th by volunteers cleaning up the beaches at Cold Spring Harbor and along Cove Neck Road.

CENTRAL PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Bethpage Fire Department will celebrate its 100th Anniversary in 2010 and preparations for this historic event were begun September 23 at the Bethpage Library. Ex-Chief Frank DeBobis and Ladies Auxiliary member Mary Jane Pendl spoke about their preparations. The BFD started out as the Central Park Fire Company #1 in 1910 and was located on Stewart Avenue.

The Long Island Fair was held October 1 through 4 at the Old Bethpage Village Restoration. This is the only New York State sanctioned County Fair for

Many thanks to Harry L. Dickran of Levon Graphics Corp., Route 109, East Farmingdale, for printing *The Freeholder* for the Society.

His generosity allows the magazine to reach a much wider audience than was heretofore possible. Please patronize our sponsors!

The Society now has available a "1900 View of Oyster Bay," which shows every building in existence at that time and includes a list of businesses and prominent residences. Eminently suitable for framing, this print is a great bargain at $25 plus shipping. Contact the Society at (516) 922-5032 to order yours today!

Also available are an 1833 map of Oyster Bay ($10) and a map of Gold Coast estates c. 1920 ($17). Shipping is additional.

Queens, Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

FARMINGDALE-BETHPAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This past June marked the 110th Anniversary of Charles M. Murphy, more commonly known as "Mile-a-Minute", covering a measured mile on a bicycle at the astounding speed of 60 miles per hour!

The August 29 trip by rail and subway to the Transit Museum was a great success. The museum, located in downtown Brooklyn, had an exhibit marking the 175th Anniversary of the Long Island Rail Road, North America's largest commuter railroad.

Tuesday, October 27, the 46th annual Installation Dinner of the Society was held at the La Casuccia Restaurant in Farmingdale. Guest speaker Dr. Natalie A. Naylor spoke on "Quadricentennial 2009: Henry Hudson, the Dutch, and Long Island's Colonial History."

The Fall-Winter Lecture Series will begin on Sunday, November 15, at the Farmingdale Public Library. Harrison "Terry" Hunt will present "Civil War Medicine." Eric Marten, "the Long Island Fiddler," will entertain by playing selections from the Civil War period.

SUFFOLK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Elizabeth Kahn Kaplan was the guest speaker at a "Tea & Talk" on October 8th on the topic of poking political fun in the paintings of William Sidney Mount. A one-day Civil War symposium was held Saturday, October 17, and on October 22 there was a lecture on "Long Island's Ghosts of the Civil War."

CEDAR SWAMP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society will host a lecture by trustee John Staudt on Sunday, November 1, at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Glen Cove, located at 9 North Lane. John's topic will be "The American Revolution on Long Island" and all are invited to attend.

The Society presented two more Preservation Awards to local homeowners John Specce and Grace and Ray Searby on Thursday, July 9. Mr. and Mrs. Searby are shown above, in front of their lovingly restored home, with President Maureen Monck, New York State Assemblyman Chuck Lavine, and Beth Faughnan of the Town Board. Many of the Society's Board members were in attendance as well.

THE GATHERING PLACE

"The Gathering Place" is the department of the magazine housing contributions of an historical slant but of short length that might otherwise be lost among the longer pieces. To our members who are not ready to attempt long or deeply researched articles, this is the place for your notions and comments, however brief.

The following was sent to the Editor by Mr. George H. Blythe, currently of Vero Beach, FL, who grew up in Glenwood Landing. He would like to know if any of our readers might be able to identify the author of this article on the Glenwood Landing of the 1920s.

Glenwood's Gatsby Era

Glenwood was a lively town in the 1920s. Houdini the famous magician lived in the house next to ours. When my Dad bought our house it was already 100 years old and needed lots of fixing. It was large with odd-shaped rooms, fireplaces in most and a delightful attic filled with old Chas William catalogues, magazines and old newspapers. Best of all it was on Shore Road and a stone's throw from Hempstead Harbor. Being about 9 years old when we moved in and always around the water, my mother worried constantly that I would drown. One day I was on my way to fish (it was November) at the Oyster Co. dock. Walking across planks over the oyster bins I fell in. I swam fifty feet to a ladder and climbed out, arrived home covered with ice, including the flounder drop line still in my hand. It was a great relief to my mother.

During the summer we would walk every day to Karotsony's Beach to go swimming. Karotsony's, in addition to their beach restaurant, catered mostly to large groups of people who arrived either by boat or buses. The restaurant was where the L. I. Lighting Co. gas plant now is. There were seven full-sized baseball diamonds and areas for many other sports. When big boats from New York like the *Miles Standish* arrived at the Karotsony's dock, we were always on hand to see the tying up and what the passengers looked like. People were always tossing us something while waiting to get off and on one occasion, a candy manufacturers' outing, they were throwing boxes of candy. Eventually the boat would be secured and off would come all these beautiful people dressed in the fanciest clothes and men in their flat straw hats. They would walk the length of the dock and across Shore Road to the restaurant where a day's fun had been arranged including perhaps a clambake. Although this was during Prohibition, beer and whiskey were flowing freely. At approximately four p.m. the boat would start tooting its whistle to let people know it was time to get aboard. Coming back on the dock, it was hard to believe they were the same ones who had arrived that morning. Few were sober, most were dirty from playing games and arguments and fistfights were starting right and left. They would toss coins into the water for us to dive for and some would jump in with their clothes on. Ted Smith of Sea Cliff was the lifeguard and he saved many lives over the years. Dick Fancher used to take people on his boat on trips around the harbor and another man took people

A scene very like the one described above, this one in Glen Cove.

on seaplane rides. Airplanes in the '20s weren't too dependable, however a11 passengers survived these trips. There was also a ferry that ran from Karotsony's dock to Rye Beach.

It operated only a short time because they had a hell of a time getting the cars on and off the ferry at low tide. If a car got off or on the ferry without losing its muffler or some under part, we all cheered. On numerous occasions it went aground off where Tappan Beach is now.

Perhaps the most impressive thing that would occur every weekday morning at the dock was the commuting of two millionaires to Wall Street. Percy Pyne of Roslyn Harbor would be driven in his Rolls Royce out to the end of the dock and step aboard his yacht. It was sleek, all mahogany, approximately 60 feet long and luxurious. His crew would serve him breakfast and forty-five minutes later he would arrive in Wall Street, having just finished reading the *Wall Street Journal*. Another man, Mr. Moore of East Norwich, went the same route and his boat was much larger and was called *The Wisper*. We would also see Mr. Childs Frick go by each morning in his enormous *Sea Sled* with a 20-foot high stream at the stern. Walking barefoot on the dock would burn the soles of your feet and almost daily you removed at least one splinter.

Where the L. I. Lighting Co. plant is today there used to be a much smaller building and on the south side of it was a beautiful garden, tended with loving care by an Italian man by the name of Tony.

Fyfe's Shipyard, next to Karotsony's dock, owned and operated by James and Arcola Fyfe, was known up and down the coast as the best place to have a boat conditioned. Most of the millionaires of this area used their services and many of their boats were stored there for the winter. J. P. Morgan with his big mustache frequented the place and would arrive in his chauffeur-driven touring car. In the shipyard a pipe jutted out of one of the buildings and out of it came the best spring water ever. The kind Fyfes tolerated all the kids coming over from Karotsony's to get a drink. Most of the men employed at Fyfe's were old time Glenwood people, along with an assortment of Scots.

Then there was Smallwood's Restaurant perched on a hill overlooking Motts Cove and Hempstead Harbor, run by Joe Smallwood, a former boxing champ from England. Mr. Smallwood would not put up with any shenanigans in his place. I remember one incident when a man molested a lady and he threw him out - right through a window, glass and all. Many kids learned to swim at Smallwood's beach and when I finally made it across Motts Cove to the Stern Estate, that was a great day. My brother and the two Smallwood boys built a hut down by the beach. It was below ground and quite elegant. Everything was fine till they decided to dig a little deeper - salt water came up from the bottom and the whole thing caved in.

My grandfather, Henry Wiggins, ran a small boat yard in the Cove and although his work was confined to smaller boats than the Fyfes, his love of his work produced great results. Ed (Beans) Bedell had a boatyard next to my grandfather's where the George Becker shipyard is now. Beans ran an auto repair shop out of the top of his building and he could repair anything.

Rum running, ah yes, those were the days! Many men in Glenwood would get the word "a boat is coming in tonight." They would be there to carry the bootleggers' booze from the boat to waiting trucks. A man could make a whole week's pay in one night. On one occasion however someone tipped off the Revenue Agents and most everyone was caught.

The mud flats in the harbor between Bar Beach and Roslyn were forever trapping unwary boat owners. They would moor in the middle of the harbor and when the tide started to fall they'd be aground. They would go over the side and try to push it off. Much later, covered with black smelly mud head to toe, cuts from mussels, cussing swearing they would have to resign themselves to the fact that they would be there high and dry till the tide would rise.

The Mott Homestead at the head of Motts Cove (about where the Swan Club parking lot is) was an interesting old house. The slope of the floors was such that if you dropped a marble you couldn't catch it before it reached the other side. Dell Mott, the fanciest skater at Scudders Pond, used to live there. Mrs. Renard, who lived in a small house on the edge of the water, rented boats to fishermen. We called her "The

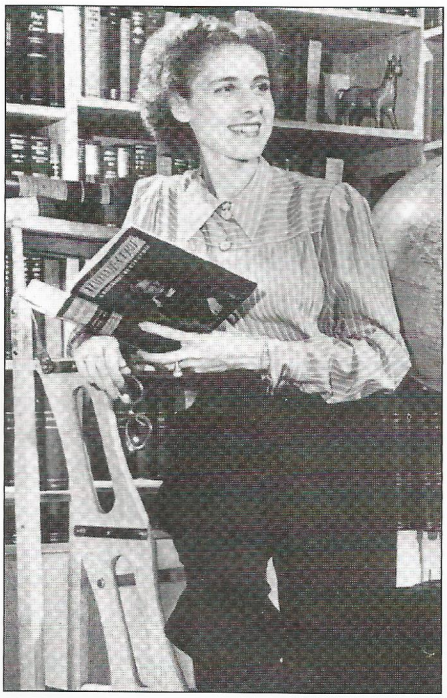
Sandworm Lady" because she kept them in her icebox.

The Northport Oyster Co. was diagonally across from our house and was a special attraction for me. The oyster boat would go out in the Sound, get the oysters and bring them back and store them in bins filled with salt water. As they were sold, they would be put in barrels and shipped all over the United States. I would occasionally help and learned a lot about oysters including how to tell if one was bad by knocking two together and listening for a hollow sound. The most colorful part of this enterprise was the big three-masted schooners that would come in to take out the empty shells. They were taken back to the oyster beds and sown as seed to produce more oysters. We could dig a bushel of steamer clams on the sand bar in front of Stern's house in no time.

In the twenties most Glenwood people considered most Sea Cliff people to be snobs.

If you would like to know more about upper Hempstead Harbor, there is a wonderful book written by Conrad Goddard.

Most of my childhood was spent in Glenwood Landing and I have a great deal of affection for the people who live there.



Clare Boothe Luce

Clare Boothe Luce

continued from p. 5

society. Since he would not divorce his wife, who was mentally ill, his relationship with Clare seemed hopeless. Hopeless it was not and their close relationship continued until his death in 1965. Baruch's estate "Hobcaw Barony" in South Carolina adjoined the Luces' estate, "Mepkin Plantation," where they had built their home "Claremont." One might say that Bernard Baruch was to Clare as Joseph Jacobs had been to her mother Ann. Ironically, Baruch's wife died just six months after Clare married Henry Robinson Luce, the publisher of *Time*, *Fortune*, *Life*, and *Sports Illustrated*.[23] Clare and "Harry," as he was known, were married on November 23, 1935, shortly after Luce had been granted a divorce from his wife Lila R. Hotz Luce.[24] Harry and Clare seemed relatively happy in the beginning of their marriage but despite the fact that they worked well together, Harry lacked the vitality and intellectuality to keep pace with Clare. She turned to Baruch, thirty-three years her senior, for the rest of his life. Bernard Baruch died in 1965 at the age of ninety-four; Harry died two years later at the age of sixty-eight.

The Long Island years were now part of the distant, often revised, past. Clare became a national figure. After her work with the Roosevelt administration, Clare returned to journalism, traveling and writing as a foreign correspondent for *Life*, teaming with her husband Harry Luce. In 1942 she again took up residency in Connecticut to run for the seat in the United States House of Representatives formerly held by her stepfather Dr. Albert E. Austin, representing Connecticut's 4th Congressional District. She won and was re-elected in 1944. Appointed by President Eisenhower in 1953 as Ambassador to post-war Italy, the first woman to receive an ambassadorial appointment to the government of a major power, Clare's "stateswomanship" was remarkable for its successes and its controversy. She served until 1957. In 1973 she was appointed to the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board by President Nixon and continued to serve on that board under both Presidents Ford and Reagan. Clare Boothe Luce lived out her later life in Hawaii and died at the age of eighty-four in Washington, DC, on October 9, 1987.

ENDNOTES

1. According to Clare, William's father, born Booth, added the "e" to the family name to distance himself and his progeny from John Wilkes Booth, to whom the family may or may not have actually been related. Clare thought the small deception was infinitely amusing and that it was ultimately ineffective since a large percentage of correspondents

throughout her life, and at least one biographer, misspelled Boothe. Wilfred Sheed, *Clare Boothe Luce*. (New York: Dutton Publishing Inc., 1982), p. 38. Although members of the Boothe family have denied Clare's story in regard to the addition of the "e," genealogical records show that a terminal "e" was used by their ancestors prior to 1840 and then reinstated in the era of William's father which, of course, does not confirm Clare's explanation of the change in spelling, nor does it disprove it. Sylvia Jukes Morris, *Rage to Fame: The Ascent of Clare Boothe Luce*. (New York: Random House, 1997), pp. 20, 495.

The preoccupation with and seemingly endless speculation about Clare's legitimacy hinges on the lack of tangible evidence in the form of a marriage certificate for William and Ann. *Wikipedia's* biographical entry for Clare Boothe Luce begins the section on her early life "Ann Clare Boothe, the illegitimate child of ..." William had been previously married to Laura O. Brauss from whom he was not legally divorced until April 1907. The document states that he and Laura, who had been married in New Jersey on November 7, 1886, had not been cohabitating since 1901. A New York State divorce decree was granted to Laura on the grounds of adultery. According to Morris, at that time he was legally prohibited from remarrying in New York State "until the said Laura O. B. Boothe shall be actually dead." Morris, pp. 24-25. Since Laura went on to have a successful career as a writer for the *New York Sunday World*, William would not have been free to marry Ann under New York State law even after the 1907 divorce. Morris, pp. 495-96. One source says that William and Ann eloped in 1894. Ralph G. Martin, *Henry and Clare: An Intimate Portrait of the Luces.* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1991), p. 28. Other sources repeat Clare's insistence that her parents were married in a civil ceremony in 1902. David was born in March 1902 and Clare was born on March 10, 1903, according to the birth certificate signed by Dr. George A. Leek. Morris, p. 15. Clare's steadfast position that her parents were married in 1902 is understandable. Even if they had been married in a civil ceremony, Ann's Roman Catholic parents, William and Louisa Schneider (Snyder), who were vocal in declaring their daughter to be "living in sin," would not have recognized the civil marriage any more than they would have recognized a "common law" marriage; even if William had divorced Laura before marrying Ann, there could be no acceptance of their daughter's union with a divorced man of another religion. William's father, John William Thomas Boothe, a fundamentalist Baptist minister, also did not recognize William and Ann's union as a marriage. In addition to being vehemently anti-papist, Pastor Boothe despised the theater and theater people. Stephen Shadegg, *Clare Boothe Luce: A Biography.* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1970), pp. 12-13.

Carolyn Wells Kraus, "A Discourse of Female Bastardy," University of Michigan, PhD. thesis, 1998.

2. Martin, pp. 29-31 and Morris, pp. 28-29, 31-36.

3. Morris, p. 39.

Stephen Shadegg, p. 26, states that Clare did not know whether her parents were actually divorced. Wilfred Sheed, p. 39, states that her parents were divorced in 1913. Both biographers had access to Clare Boothe Luce for verification. Ralph Martin, p. 31, states that Ann Clare Snyder Boothe divorced William, citing desertion, and was granted a formal divorce on those grounds in 1913. These conclusions are highly suspect since no divorce decree was found in Clare's personal papers, although the divorce papers for the dissolution of William's marriage to Laura O. Brauss were present. And, as stated in endnote #1, there is no documentary evidence of William having married Ann after his 1907 divorce from Laura. Statements dating and confirming a legal divorce between Ann and William cannot be confirmed.

4. William Franklin Boothe claimed to have sent money to Ann for the support of David and Clare, a claim that Clare dismissed based on the poverty in which Ann and the children lived. Sheed, p. 40.

Clare claimed to have met her father on a train as she was traveling down from Connecticut to New York City to attend a play with a friend. According to Clare, he sat down next to her, identified himself as they approached the tunnel to Grand Central Station, they talked briefly, and she never saw him again. She claimed that

she took the next train back home and confronted her mother, who had told Clare and David that their father had died ten years earlier. Clare also said that she supported her father near the end of his life when his music school in California had to be closed because of his illness. Shadeeg, pp. 24-26. Others deny her claims of support. Morris, pp. 150-53.

5. Shadegg, p. 16.

Sylvia Jukes Morris, who interviewed Clare and who had unrestricted access to Clare's papers, states that Clare admitted that by 1913 her mother had probably become a call girl. Morris, p. 44. Whatever the truth of the matter, there was no doubt that their standard of living ebbed and flowed with the comings and goings of Ann Snyder Boothe's gentlemen friends. Sheed, p. 40.

6. Shadegg, p. 16.

7. Sheed, pp. 40-41.

8. Martin, p. 34.

9. Shadegg, pp. 21-24 and Sheed, p. 46.

10 Sheed p. 46.

11. Sheed p. 41.

The relationship between Ann Clara Snyder Boothe and Joseph [alternately referred to as Joel] Jacobs continued after her marriage to Dr. Austin. She was with Jacobs when she died in 1938; the car in which they were riding was struck by a train when it became stalled on the tracks at a railroad crossing.

12. Shadegg, pp. 27-28.

13. Shadegg, pp. 32-33 and Sheed, p. 52.

For information on Alva Smith Vanderbilt Belmont's estate Beacon Towers, see Raymond E. and Judith A. Spinzia, *Long Island's Prominent North Shore Families: Their Estates and Their Country Homes,* vol. I. (College Station, TX: Virtual-Bookworm, 2006) – Belmont entry. See also Raymond E. and Judith A. Spinzia, *Long Island's Prominent South Shore Families: Their Estates and Their Country Homes in the Towns of Babylon and Islip.* (College Station, TX: VirtualBookworm, 2006) – Vanderbilt entry – for information on the Vanderbilt's Oakdale estate "Idlehour." Oliver Hazard Perry and Alva Smith Belmont's estate "Brookholt" in East Meadow is discussed in a forthcoming book by Raymond E. and Judith A. Spinzia, *Long Island's Prominent Families in the Town of Hempstead: Their Estates and Their Country Homes.*

See also Raymond E. Spinzia, "In Her Wake: The Story of Alva Smith Vanderbilt Belmont." *The Long Island Historical Journal* 6 (Fall 1993), pp. 96-105.

14. Shadegg, pp. 34-37.

15. Shadegg, pp. 34, 37-38.

16. For information on other members of the Brokaw family see Raymond E. and Judith A. Spinzia, *Long Island's Prominent North Shore Families: Their Estates and Their Country Homes,* vol. I. (College Station, TX: VirtualBookworm, 2006) – Brokaw entries.

The Brokaw name had been changed from Broucard to Brokaw. *The New York Times* March 20, 1939, p. 17.

17. Spinzia, *Long Island's Prominent North Shore Families,* vol. I, p. 93.

The Sands Point estate on Middle Neck Road was subsequently owned by Charles Schwartz and purchased in 1938 by Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt II.

The Long Island Society Register, 1929 lists the Brokaws' address as Valley Road, Brookville. Wolver Hollow Road is said to have been casually known as "Valley Road" by locals, which could account for the *Register* address entry. The Brokaws were living at "Sunnybrook" at the time of their divorce.

The Hagstrom's Street, Road and Property Ownership Map of Nassau County, Long Island, New York, 1946 lists Henry Fonda as the owner of the Brookville house on forty-six acres.

18. Henry Fonda in collaboration with Howard M. Teichmann, *Fonda: My Life.* (New York: NAL Publishers, 1981), p. 119.

19. Shadegg, pp. 46-47 and Martin, pp. 80-81.

Eloise Elvira Gould Brokaw, George's doting mother, was said to have been fully aware of his abusive personality and behavior.

20. Shadegg, p. 49.

The Brokaw family brokered the divorce settlement since George had not chosen to give Clare a financial settlement nor had he chosen to establish a trust fund for their daughter Ann Clare Brokaw. Shadegg, p. 49. At Ann's unfortunate death at age nineteen in 1944, the $425,000 trust fund was awarded to Frances de Villers Brokaw, George's daughter by his second marriage to Frances Ford Seymour, the daughter of Eugene Ford and Sophie Mildred Bower Seymour.

George died in 1935, in a swimming pool of a sanitarium in

Hartford, CT, where he was being treated for a nervous breakdown and alcoholism, just four years after he had married Frances, twenty-eight years his junior. Shadegg, p. 96. He was fifty-five at his death; Frances was twenty-seven. She subsequently married the actor Henry Fonda with whom she had two children Peter and Jane (baptized Lady Jayne Seymour Fonda). Frances committed suicide in 1950 in Craig House, a sanitarium in Beacon, NY, shortly after Henry Fonda had requested a divorce in order to marry Susan Blanchard, the daughter of Dorothy Hammerstein and step-daughter of Kings Point resident Oscar Hammerstein II. Peter Collier, *The Fondas: A Hollywood Dynasty.* (New York: Berkeley Books, 1992), p. 65 and Fonda, pp. 194, 196-202.

21. Shadegg, p. 55.

22. *The Women* was made into a film in 1939. George Cukor directed an all-female cast including Joan Crawford, Norma Shearer, and Rosalind Russell. In 1956 it was remade as a musical called *The Opposite Sex* in which the single-gender concept of the stage play and the first film was abandoned.

23. Sheed, p. 63.

24. *The Los Angeles Times*, November 24, 1935, p. 1.

Samuel Townsend's Store

continued from p. 9

It seems that Samuel MacCoun carted boards and Peter Baker delivered freight for Samuel Townsend. Trips overland were difficult as roads were poor and going slow. Pairs of oxen, like the kind Hezekiah Cock used as payment, were the best way to pull a wagon or plow. They were more cost effective than horses for the task because they required less food and care. Paired oxen, broken to the yoke and well trained, were very valuable – these were valued at 19 pounds. Elizabeth Wooden probably spun fine wool and knitted those stockings that she paid to settle her debt. Spinning and knitting, if done beautifully, were a craft that could yield a woman some income. John Hamer, about whom we know nothing, may have either had the pickle tub from somewhere or else he was a cooper and manufactured them. We just don't know. Butter was a stable commodity. Salted and packed air tight in barrels, it could be shipped without refrigeration over great distances and still be fresh.

Individuals in history

Very little is known about the day-to-day lives of individual common folk in colonial times. The rich and famous and the literate, who wrote diaries that were saved, are exceptional. By examining these records of a simple village store, like Samuel Townsend's, we get a very personal glimpse of the daily lives of the people who really made history: they were the soldiers, the farmers who cleared the land and the sailors who brought European things to America. They were the wives who taught children to read and write, nursed the sick, made the food, sewed the clothing, and tended the kitchen garden. There would have been no history without them, yet they aren't famous enough to be remembered except in this small way. We can get a sense of what they treasured and desired by what they bought and how much they had to work to pay for it.

About the author: Michael Goudket is an independent artist, classical musician and re-enactor with the Huntington Militia. He is also an interpreter at Raynham Hall Museum and at Old Bethpage Village Restoration. *Thanks are due to Jennifer Ladd, Collections Manager at Raynham Hall, for making the Townsend journals accessible and to Meryl Ambrose of the Huntington Militia (who is an accountant) for helping to interpret them.*

For further reading:

Berkin, Carol. *Revolutionary Mothers: Women and the Struggle for America's Independence,* Knopf, 1996.

Breen, T. H. *The Marketplace of Revolution: How Consumer Politics Shaped American Independence,* Oxford University Press, 2004.

Norton, Mary Beth. *Liberty's Daughter*, Little Brown & Co., 1980.

Young, Alfred F. *Liberty Tree: Ordinary People and the American Revolution,* New York University Press, 2006.

THE LONG ISLAND DEAD POETS' SOCIETY
Part IX
by Robert L. Harrison

The longevity of our poets has always been an interesting topic. 19th century newspapers used to print articles about our "oldest" poets. When a famous bard died, they would usually have a listing of what poets attended their funeral and how they were faring in life.[1] The assumption was that their poetic wisdom increased their life expectancy. Our Long Island poets during the nineteenth century outlived the general population by at least a decade, averaging 66 years of age, with some living beyond 80 years.[2] Our women poets outlived the men by two years during that century, but perhaps it was not all based on poetic knowledge.

The key to their longevity (or lack of it), was their lifestyle. Bryant, Huntington, McLellan and Oakes-Smith were wealthier than the general population, while William Martin Johnson and McDonald Clarke, who were not financially secure, died fairly young. The longevity of our poets increased in the 20th century, with some poets reaching over 100 years of age. Those who lived to over 80 were almost evenly divided by their sex and four woman poets lived 90 years or more.[3]

William Cullen Bryant might have lived longer had he not fallen into a door after giving a speech in New York City. Bryant was not feeling well the night before at his home, "Cedarmere," but still went to the city to speak at the presentation of a bust of the Italian liberator Mazzini. On the other hand Walt Whitman suffered from ill health for a number of years before dying in 1892. Both Bryant and Whitman practiced their craft until the day they died.

The causes of death of our poets are many and only a few listed on death certificates from the past would be correct today, given our increased knowledge of health and disease. But the most common cause of death it seems would be heart related, with some 24 poets succumbing to various forms of this disease.[4]

When Bryant tripped and fell against a door in 1878, it contributed to his death, as did the fall of Bloodgood Cutter after his collision with a swinging gate. The poetess Hilda Morley also had a fall before she died and recently the arborist/working poet Jay Johnson (aka John Kicker), fell some 80 feet while pruning a tree in 2005. In the 19th century, Margaret Fuller drowned when her ship foundered off Fire Island, while poor McDonald Clarke drowned in his cell on Blackwell's Island. In the 20th century, breast cancer took the lives of the African-American poet June Jordan (1937-2002), who once taught at Stony Brook University, and Anna Ruth Baehr (1916-1998), the Herricks schoolteacher poet. Cancer also ended the verses of Daniel Murray (1937-2000), Jeanne Voege (1927-1989), Richard Elman (1934-1997), Siv Cedering (1939-2007), Donald Axinn (Hofstra Library), and the Nobel Prize winner Gabriela Mistral (1890-1957), who died in Hempstead Hospital. Two of our poets suffered from Alzheimer's disease: the Pulitzer Prize winner George Oppen at 68, and the local Bethpage/Hicksville poet, James Cooley, at 67.[5]

Three of our recent poets died at a fairly young age; one of them was a fallen hero on 9-11. Eamon McEneaney (1954-2001), was a graduate of Sewanhaka High School in Floral Park, where he excelled at lacrosse. McEneaney went to Cornell University on a lacrosse scholarship and became a three time All-American there. He was inducted into both the Cornell Athletic Hall of Fame and the Long Island Lacrosse Hall of Fame. McEneaney was also a part-time poet who started writing in high school and continued this verse passion throughout his short life. After graduating from college, McEneaney entered the world of banking and finance and survived the first World Trade Center bombing in 1993, assisting more than sixty people out of the building.[6]

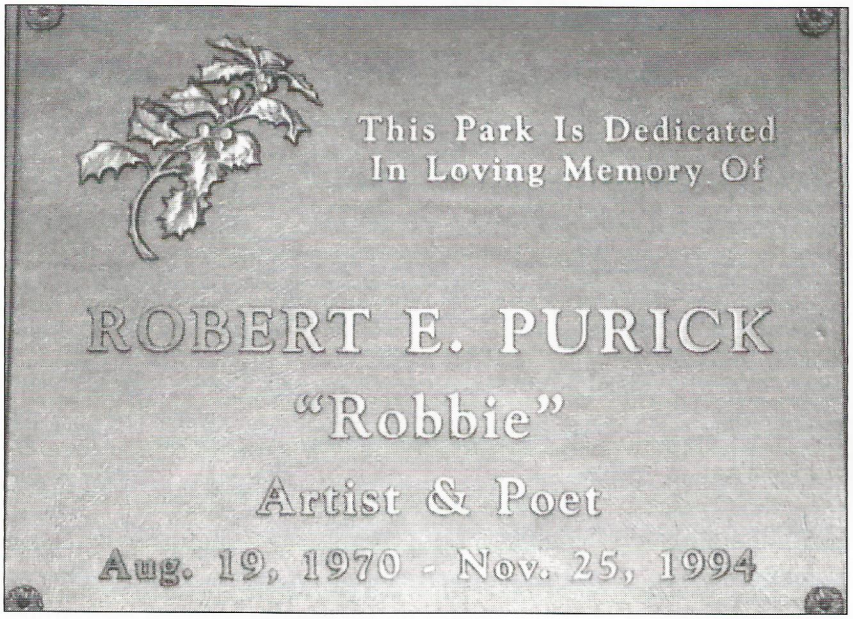
McEneaney did not survive the second attack on the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001. His friends at Cornell, including his wife Bonnie, published his joyfully written poetry in the book, *A Bend in the Road*, in 2004. The past Nassau County Poet Laureate, Maxwell Corydon Wheat, Jr, was so inspired by McEneaney's life that he included his poetry story about the Trade Center bombing in his poem "Everybody Has a Story"-

> Two thousand, three-hundred-thirty two stories[7]
>
> Eamon McEneaney, 46, the first attack in 1992, led sixty-three people down one-hundred flights of stairs.
> Senior Vice president, brokerage firm, Cantor Fitzgerald,
> calling his wife at her office, shouting "Is Bonnie there?

I love her and I love the kids…"
A Poet: "He had always wanted to publish," Bonnie said.
He was – in the *Newsday* obit,
the ending of a poem to his wife:

"..The end
Is a bend in the road
That we'll never find
A death I will always
Defend
You from."

Bailey Laurel Ginsberg (1987-2002) was a talented young woman who attended the Lloyd Harbor School system. She was a bright student who loved writing both prose and poetry. Ginsberg died tragically in an automobile accident just before starting her junior year in high school. Two years later in 2004, her friends and family gathered up her writings and published them posthumously in a book called *Hidden Treasure*, by Author House.[8] Another future shining star was lost when Robert E. Purick (1970-1994) was involved in an automobile accident. Purick graduated from Calhoun High School in Merrick and went on to obtain degrees from the Fashion Institute of Technology and Purchase College. He was a sculptor and artist at heart and loved writing poetry. Purick worked as a busboy at the R.S. Jones Restaurant during his school days in Merrick and they later honored him by sponsoring, along with his parents, a scholarship for artists in his name at Calhoun High School. Purick also was honored by having a Nassau County mini park, named Poet's Park, dedicated to his memory next to the R.S. Jones Restaurant on Merrick Avenue. This Poet's Park has a poem by Purick written on the brick wall of the restaurant facing the park benches. Today it is a place of tranquility in the middle of a fast-paced suburban world.



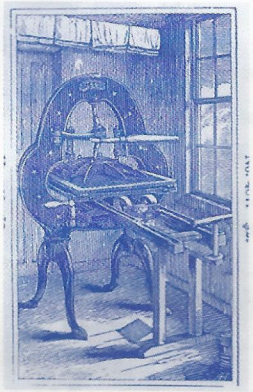
The plaque in Poet's Park honoring Robert E. Purick. Photo by the author.

Notes

1. At William Cullen Bryant's funeral the poets Walt Whitman, Richard H. Stoddard and William Ross Wallace attended. The famous poets Longfellow, Whittier and Emerson were invited but could not attend due to their age and travel problems. They were in their seventies and Longfellow and Emerson would die four years later. The funeral of Whitman was outside in a tent and over four thousand people came to bid the "Good Grey Poet" goodbye.
2. During the 19th century our oldest poets were, Phillip Freneau 80, William Cullen Bryant 84, Elizabeth Bogart 85, Elizabeth Oakes-Smith 86, Cornelia Huntington 87 and Isaac McLellan 93.
3. Those Long Island poets who surpassed their eightieth birthday were, Rose Ignatow 81, Norman Rosten 81, Hilda Morey 82, Mary Fanny Youngs 82, Anna Ruth Baehr 82, David Ignatow 83, William Cullen Bryant 84, David Burliuk 84, Geard Previn Meyer 84, Nathalia Crane 85, Elizabeth Bogart 85, Edmund Pennant 85, Marianne Moore 85, Stanley R. Gould 86, Elizabeth Oakes-Smith 86, Augustis Haviland 86, Grace B. Sherwood 86, Cornella Huntington 87, Charles DeKay 87, Winthrop Palmer 88, Paul Bowles 89, Bloodgood H. Cutter 89, Leo E. Schottland 90, John Hall Wheelock 92, Florence Evans 92, Isaac McLellan 93, Violet A. Storey 95, Djuna Barnes 100 and Dorothy Hatch at 101.
4. The following deceased Long Island Dead Poet's Society members passed away due to heart related problems- Lucy Hooper 24, Robert Dunn 31, Thomas Walsh 53, Lou Stevens 54,

continued on p. 24

Blocklyn's Books



Book Reviews by Philip Blocklyn

350 Years of People and Nature on the Hempstead Plains. Hempstead Plains Heritage Symposium. 9 October 2009. Nassau Community College.

Nassau County's Hempstead Plains, North America's only prairie east of the Alleghany Mountains, once stretched westward from the eastern border of Queens to… somewhere. As many speakers at this informative and engaging conference indicated, there is no definitive agreement on the actual original extent of this all-but-lost grassland, which has been variously described as covering 28,000 (or 30,000, or 60,000, or 80,000) acres, or as having stretched 16 (or 18, or 20) miles across central Nassau in a belt 4 (or 6) miles wide. There isn't even agreement over what's left of it, beyond a general admission that fewer than 100 acres still survive. So just say this: the Hempstead Plains was big, and we've managed in just a few hundred years to destroy almost all of it.

The morning session's History Panel led a series of presentations chronicling the Plains' place in America's regional and national heritage. Paul van Wie introduced the proposed Hempstead Plains Heritage Trail, which would highlight places of interest from Floral Park to Wantagh, while John Staudt outlined the often-forgotten military role that the Plains has served, beginning with the Revolution. Later, Natalie Naylor provided an overview of travel writers' firsthand accounts of encountering the Plains in their full and former glory. Tom Gwynne's session featured Harriet Quimby (journalist, photographer, and bohemian-aviator) whose brief life suffered two moments of particularly bad timing. She was the first woman to fly across the English Channel but unfortunately chose 16 April 1912 to do it, and so lost absolutely all her press coverage to *Titanic*. Not long after, she died when her small plane pitched her out into thin air at 1500 feet. She was 37.

Before lunch, Steve Boerner and Peter Rapelje introduced their preliminary findings on efforts to establish the northern boundaries of the Plains. This was the perfect lead-in to the afternoon's Ecology Panel presentations, beginning with Lisa Filippi and Carole Ryder, who respectively summarized the Plains' ecological and natural histories. Shari Romar reviewed her guide to the use of native plants still found on the Plains' remnants, a natural lead-in to Polly Weigand's discussion of the Long Island Native Grass Initiative (LINGI). Steve Finklestein's energetic survey of habitat restoration work as an education resource at the Wheatley School closed the symposium.

Afterwards, Betsy Gulotta led a short hike across Nassau County Community College's 19-acre remnant of the Hempstead Plains, pointing out its notable plants and natural features.

Notes:

The Hempstead Plains Symposium was presented jointly by Friends of Hempstead Plains at Nassau Community College, the Franklin Square Historical Society, and the Wheatley School Regional Studies

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Historical Society Librarian Steve Boerner and Archivist Philip Blocklyn on the Hempstead Plains. Photo by Irene Virag.

Dead Poets

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Hyman Sobiloff 57, Howard Griffith 60, Whitttaker Chambers 60, Vincent Callaci 60, Henrik Visnapu 61, William Rose Benet 64, Christopher Morley 67, Sigmund Tanhauser 68, James Schuyer 68, William Packard 69, Raymond Patterson 72, Andre Breton 72, John Alden 73, Fairfield Porter 75, Alonzo Gibbs 77, Richard H. Stoddard 78, Emily Jordan Folger 78, Norman Rosten 81, Edmund Pennant 85 and Paul Bowles 89. In the case of some of these poets their lifestyles (drinking, smoking, etc) helped contribute to their demise.

5. Most of the information gathered on their deaths was taken from obituary notices from the *New York Times*, *Newsday* and local papers. A few were from friends of the poets themselves.

6. *Chronicle*, Cornell University Newspaper, Sept. 2004.

7. Poem used by permission of Maxwell Corydon Wheat, Jr.

8. *Hidden Treasure* can be found at the Plainview-Old Bethpage Library.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

OCTOBER

Saturday, Oct. 24, 3-5 p.m.

Exhibition Opening

Earle-Wightman House

In celebration of American Archives Month this October, the Oyster Bay Historical Society will exhibit several selections from its archival and reference holdings in *Tracing Peg: Slavery in Oyster Bay.* Who was Peg? Where did she come from? What was her life like? Though little information exists today about Peg, a slave at the start of the 18th century, the archival records on display — a combination of town records, bills of sale, and other documents — will provide visitors with a powerful, albeit brief, glimpse into her life as well as the lives of other slaves in Oyster Bay.

The exhibit will be in place through December.

Blocklyn's Books

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Program. Co-chairs: Professor Betsy Gulotta and Dr. Paul van Wie.

Friends of Hempstead Plains at Nassau Community College is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the Hempstead Plains and to offering educational programs about this special and rapidly vanishing ecological and historical habitat. For more information about this organization, please visit http://www.friendsofhp.org .

Further Reading:

For a review of Naylor, *Journeys on Old Long Island: Travelers' Accounts, Contemporary Descriptions, and Residents' Reminiscences, 1744-1893*, please see *The Freeholder*, volume 7, no. 3, Winter 2003, 22.

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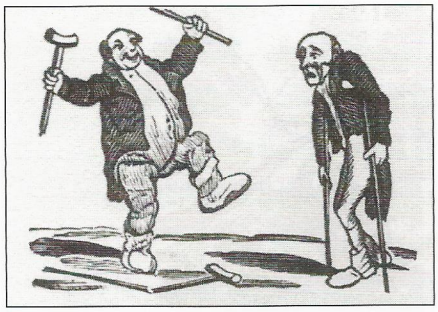

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